

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 01075 261811Z

51
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W
----- 061001

P R 261725Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1871
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1075

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO
SUBJ: INFORMATION MINISTER'S VIEWS ON PRESS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES GAVE HIS VIEWS ON INFORMATION
DURING CONFIRMATION OF NEW MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND INFORMATION.
NEW INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTED ON PRESS LAW AND CRITICIZED
FOREIGN PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SPOKE AT SWEARING-IN FEB 24 OF
MINISTER OF DEFENSE SILVANO RIBEIRO AND INFORMATION MINISTER
JORGE CORREIA JESUINO.
2. PRESIDENT STATED THAT FUNCTION OF INFORMATION MINISTRY IS
THEORETICALLY SIMPLE, BUT IN PRACTICE NEW MINISTER WILL BE FACED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 01075 261811Z

WITH "SERIOUS AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS, FOR AT THIS TIME INFORMATION

IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR COUNTRY." PRESIDENT ADDED THAT HE CONVINCED THAT IF INFORMATION MINISTRY NOT DIRECTED WITH "GREAT SENSE, CARE, AND INTELLIGENCE, THE PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING TODAY WILL BECOME MUCH MORE SERIOUS."

3. PRESIDENT'S CONCERN OVER POLITICAL SLANT OF MEDIA EVIDENT. HE STATED THAT PORTUGAL NEEDS HONEST NEWS SO PEOPLE MAY FORM POLITICAL OPINIONS AND VOTE. "BECAUSE OF SHORTCOMINGS OF WHICH WE ARE ALL AWARE, UNTIL NOW THE MEDIA HAVE NOT HAD THE IMPARTIALITY, OPENNESS, AND FRANKNESS THAT ALL DESIRE."

4. DISCUSSING INFORMATION PROBLEMS, CORREIA JESUINO SAID PRESS OFTEN ACCUSED OF PARTISAN REPORTING BUT ACCUSATION NEVER SUPPORTED BY CONCRETE FACTS AND DOCUMENTED ANALYSIS. HE STATED HIS MINISTRY WILL NOT BE JUST A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE BUT WILL RATHER BE THE POLITICAL CONSCIENCE OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS. "WE WOULD LIKE TO CENTRALIZE INFORMATION AND THUS RESPOND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE, WITH TIMELINESS AND EXACTNESS. OUR AMBITION IS TO HAVE A REGULATORY FUNCTION OVER PUBLIC DIALOGUES, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, FOR ONLY THUS DE WE JUSTIFY THE BILATERAL CONCEPT OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION."

5. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION STATED NEW PRESS LAW "PUTS TRUST IN POLITICAL MAJORITY," AND IS COMING OUT AT TIME WHEN "MILITARY IS ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL" AND "THE SPECTER OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IS BEGINNING TO BE MALICIOUSLY SUGGESTED." JESUINO ADDED THAT DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME "ECONOMICALLY NON-VIABLE" NEWSPAPERS IS ALREADY ANTICIPATED.

6. JESUINO STATED THAT OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION GUILHERME CONCEICAO SILVA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUIS DE BARROS WOULD NOT BE REPLACED AND THEIR EXIT HAS NO "POLITICAL DIMENSIONS." MINISTER HOPES TO REDUCE BUREAUCRACY AND CENTRALIZE OPERATIONS.

7. ASKED IF HE WOULD CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN PRESS FOR "HAVING SHOWN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL," JESUINO, MAKING REFERENCE TO PAST EXPERIENCE IN ANGOLA WITH "THE HOSTILITY OF FOREIGN PROFES-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 01075 261811Z

SIONALS," DESCRIBED FOREIGN PRESS IN PORTUGAL AS "HYPER-CRITICAL, IRONICALLY INDULGENT, PATERNALISTIC, AND MALEVOLENTLY SKEPTICAL. WE ARE REACHING A STATE OF STRICTNESS IN WHICH WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO APPLY CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO THE SERIOUS ERRORS COMMITTED." MINISTER STATED NOW THAT REVOLUTION CONSOLIDATED, PORTUGAL IS SEEN TO REPRESENT A POTENTIALLY CONTAGIOUS THREAT AND FOREIGN PRESS IS FULL OF ADVICE FOR INTERNAL MEASURES.

8. COMMENT: IT IS TOO SOON TO KNOW WHAT LINE JESUINO WILL TAKE
ON CRITICAL ISSUE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. IN LIGHT OF HIS
STRONG CRITICISM OF FOREIGN PRESS, SOME FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
ALREADY FEAR POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST THEM BY GOP.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INFORMATION MEDIA, LAW, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-1117
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajuv.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION MINISTER'S VIEWS ON PRESS SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES GAVE HIS VIEWS ON INFORMATION
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO, (GOMES, COSTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006